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THE

CASE OF THE INFANTRY IN IRELAND.

Humbly Addressed to the RIGHT HONOURABLE
RICHARD, Lord Viscount Molyneux;
General and Commander in Chief;
AND
To the GENERAL OFFICERS on the
Establishment in IRELAND.

*Quo fata trahunt, retrahuntque sequamur
Per varios Casus, per tot discrimina rerum.* VIRG.

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Richard, Lord Viscount Melbourne
President of the Royal Society
and a Member of Parliament

Editor of the Royal Society's Catalogue

AND

To the General Officer Commanding in Ireland
and the Adjutant General in Ireland.

The Author's Acknowledgments to the Royal Society
and the Royal Society's Acknowledgments to the Author

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Richard, Lord Viscount Melbourne

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THE CASE OF THE INFANTRY, &c.

My L O R D,

A S true Nobility is always accompany'd with that Portion of Humanity and Good-nature which makes the GREAT MAN easy of Access to those in Subordination to him.

The Infantry of this Kingdom humbly present this Address to your Lordship and the rest of the Honourable Gentlemen to whom it is inscribed, being the most convenient Method of representing the Hardships and Inconveniences they labour under to the Consideration of His Most Gracious Majesty, who is always ready to contribute to the Happiness and Welfare of his Subjects.

If Dedicatory Compliments, however consistent with Regard to Facts, could enhance your Lordship's Reputation and Honour, or add to the Dignity and just Praife of the rest of the Honourable Gentlemen

B addressed

addressed on this Occasion; this would be the happiest Opportunity of indulging a Desire of that kind; but such Incense is quite superficial and unnecessary, while so many grateful Hearts retain such recent Records of the personal Bravery and military Conduct of His Majesty's Field Officers upon this Establishment, when their King and Country called them to defend that Constitution which of all others has been most prudently contrived for the Happiness and Liberty of the Subject.

I shall beg your Lordship's Indulgence while I advance what cannot be unknown to you; that the Infantry of this Kingdom behaved, in every Engagement they were in, in the last War, with signal Fidelity and Courage, each shewing a Spirit of Emulation to appear first in scourging the Arrogance of His Majesty's Enemies, and putting a final Period to that most unnatural Rebellion, calculated to unhinge that constitutional Liberty, which we so fully and happily enjoy under the auspicious Reign of His Most Gracious Majesty.

I humbly presume, my Lord, that in Times of Peace, military Men are rather to live free from the Inquietude of pinching Cares, than to be involv'd in Difficulties, which the INFANTRY of this Kingdom manifestly labour under.

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The Distinction of Pay, my Lord, between *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, probably was owing to a Calculation long since made, viz. That a Soldier could live considerably cheaper in *Ireland* than in *England*.

This Suggestion may appear reasonable, if we consider, that when our Regiments are commanded out of this Kingdom, they receive equal Pay with those on the *English* Establishment.

This Distinction, my Lord, with respect to Pay, thirty Years ago might have appeared reasonable; but at this Time it is quite otherwise.

It is too obvious, my Lord, that Provisions are now dearer in this Kingdom than in *England*, particularly such Meat as is wholesome and fit for Use.

Such Soldiers, my Lord, as are in a Mess in the Barracks of *Dublin*, are obliged to put in store for a weekly Provision, being subject to the Inspection of Superintendants upon that Occasion. But the Provisions they are able to purchase for their small Allowance, being the cheapest, is generally the worst in the Markets, and such as would scarce be bought by the poorer sort of People; by which means His Majesty has lost more Men, than by the Hardships of a whole Campaign.

If we look into the present Trade of this Kingdom, and compare it to what it was

thirty

thirty Years ago ; if we consider the Encrease of Inhabitants, Buildings, and Number of Strangers daily flocking to us, it will not appear strange that Provisions in general should be sold at a dearer Rate. Besides, Lands that were set thirty Years ago, in *Ireland* at eight Shillings an Acre, are now set at twenty-five, thirty, &c. and Houses in Proportion. Must not the Produce of the Earth be advanced equally in Price ? Otherwise, how could the Farmers pay their Rent ? All this will appear self-evident upon the least Consideration.

Some Years ago Beef was sold at a Penny Farthing a Pound, and Mutton at Three Half-pence. But now at the cheapest time of the Year, Four-pence is the Price of good Beef, and Three-pence for the best Mutton ; Pork, Veal, and Lamb in Proportion. In *London*, stall-fed Beef is sold in common for Four-pence, and the highest Five-pence a Pound, the best Mutton at Three-pence. Beef in 1752 was sold in *Dublin* Markets at Seven-pence and Eight-pence a Pound, Mutton at Three-pence Half-penny, and Four-pence, and Veal at Ten-pence. How can a poor Soldier upon his small Allowance buy Meat at this Price ?

Now, my Lord, if at any Time the Pay of the Army on the *Irish* Establishment was lessened on Account of the Cheapness of

of Provisions; certainly when Things are as dear here, as in *England*, these poor Men should be on equal Pay with the Foot Soldiers of *Great Britain*, as they are at equal Expence with Regard to Support.

In these difficult Times, the Poor here, and none can be poorer than Foot-soldiers, were fed upon *Carrion Mutton*, and *Beef* at Two-pence a Pound, which was not fit for the Support of any human Creature, as may appear by the great Quantities of such Meat frequently burnt by Order of the Lord Mayor in the publick Streets. Bread is now near one third dearer than it was twenty Years ago, twenty-four Pound for a Shilling was then more common, than twelve now. Bread is much cheaper in *England* than in *Ireland*, which is evident in Times of Scarcity, when *England* proves our common Granary, and is able to undersell us considerably.

Any Person who has ever taken Notice of the Provisions, particularly prepared for the Soldiers, and exposed to Sale in the Barracks of the City of *Dublin*, must have seen rotten Bran Bread, poor, vile ill-coloured Cheese, Buttermilk half Water ; yet these are well known to be a Soldiers Banquet Morning and Evening, and are so bad even in their Kind, and the Bread so defective in Weight, that it has been taken up by the Market Jury.

And

And most certain it is, my Lord, that were it not for the mechanical Professions some of the Soldiers follow, many of them would be incapable, through Want, to do their Duty.

Hence it follows, that the Foot Soldiers in *Ireland* are in a miserable Condition ; as a further Demonstration of which, I shall take Leave to produce the following unavoidable Charge.

Debtor.

	l. s. d.
To full Substance for 365 Days at 5d. per Day	07 12 1
To one Pair of Shoes	00 04 6
To one Pair of Stockings	00 03 0
To a Shirt and Rowlet	00 06 7
	<hr/>
Total	08 06 2
Deduct	04 06 7 ^½
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Ballance for Support	03 19 6 ^½

Creditor.

By making the Coat Skirts into Breeches, and finding	{	00 02 2
By Lining A coat to even yet of Buttons and ribbons	{	00 00 6
By Ribbon for tying the Hair	00 00 9	
By Ribbons for the Collar	00 00 6	
By Oaker Balls for colouring the Buff	{	00 00 6
By Oyl, Powder and Shaving	00 04 4	
By Black Ball and Shoe-brushes	00 02 0	
By 4 Pair of New Shoes	00 18 0	
By 4 Pair of Stockings	00 12 0	
By 2 Pair of Spatterdashes	00 04 6	
By Buckles and Straps for Garters	00 00 6	
By 14 Yds of Cloth for 4 Shirts	{	00 29 4
at 15 8d. per Yd.		
By making d ^o at 9d. each	00 03 0	
By Cambrick for 4 Stocks, and making, at 10d. each.	{	00 03 4
By Cambrick for Breast and Guards	{	00 02 6
By altering cloathing	00 01 2	
By Flints, Paper, and repair- ing Arms	{	00 01 0
By Cockade	00 00 6	
By Combs	00 00 6	
By Watch-coats	00 01 6	
By mending Shoes, &c.	00 04 6	

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It is well known, my Lord, that those Things are requisite for a Soldier, and so indispensable, that if they are wanting the Men are put under Stoppages for them; and I may venture to say none of the Articles I have mentioned can be procured at cheaper Rates; therefore the daily Support of a Foot Soldier is but 2d. each Day.

Can this, my Lord, be counted sufficient Subsistence for a Man in his Health and upon Duty, when every Kind of Provision is sold at so dear a Rate; I say, where Tradesmen, who earn Twelve Shillings a Week, can scarcely support their Families, tho' they are not obliged to be clean and fit to appear in publick twice or thrice a Week, as Foot Soldiers are, according as the Turn of their Guard comes? Two-pence Halfpenny a Day is so insufficient for the Support of a Soldier, that several good Economists have wondered how any Man in his Health could subsist on such a Trifle; and were it not for the mechanical Businesses some of them follow, and the Assistance others of them get by the Industry of their Wives, who wash for Officers, &c. many of them would drop down in the Street thro' Want, and many of them, for want of sufficient Support, are unable to do their Duty as they should.

How

How far, my Lord, it is proper for a Soldier to follow a mechanical Business, I will not venture to determine; however I am certain he might employ his Time more usefully as a Soldier, by perfecting himself in military Discipline; and, if he could read, in perusing military Tracts and Histories that would open his Understanding, and inspire him with true Notions of Courage and Honour.

If we reflect, my Lord, on the happy Constitution we live under, and consider the Blessings all Classes and Degrees of Men enjoy under his present most Gracious Majesty; we must consequently think it a City that our Foot Soldiers at home, who served their King and Country in the utmost Perils and Dangers of War, should pine and languish in Poverty and Want.

Our Parliament, my Lord, is most justly distinguished for their unbyass'd Inclination to do good; and were the Distresses of the Foot Soldiers on this Establishment laid before them by your Lordship, they humbly hope their favourable Interposition in granting some Redress to the several Grievances they labour under. Every one is sensible, my Lord, that the Parliaments of *England* and *Ireland* are composed of Representatives of every Borough, Shire or

Town Corporate in each of these Kingdoms; wherefore it is the Duty of every Subject to acquaint those Representatives with such Wrongs, Abuses and Hardships as the Community, or any Part thereof are found to labour under; and the Foot Soldiers of this Kingdom, or in other Words, the Defence of the Nation should not be neglected.

Our Elder Sister, *Great Britain*, my Lord, laboured under Hardships in point of the Soldierly, which wholesome and coercive Statutes have effectually redressed: And these Statutes were made on Account of Subjects suffering Injuries; such probably was the Cause of that Act passed in the 13th Year of the Reign of KING GEORGE the first, whereby it is enacted, That a Foot Soldier shall only pay four pence for his Diet and small Beer, and a Dragoon Six pence each Day; and the 24th Clause of an Act made in the 21st Year of the Reign of KING GEORGE the Second, saith, upon a March, or Recruiting, the Host is obliged to furnish every Non commissioned Officer and Foot Soldier with Candles, Vinegar, Salt, five Pints of small Beer or Cyder each Day, together with the Use of a Fire and necessary Utensils for Dressing their Meat; wherefore the *British* Host well knowing what he is obliged to furnish a Soldier with, chearfully obeys.

But

But in *Ireland* the Case is quite different. A poor Soldier upon a March in *Ireland* is in a most miserable Condition, pinched with Hunger and Thirst the whole Time, for what daily Subsistence or Comfort can two pence half-penny be to him after a long Day's March, admit he could dispense with the Want of Breakfast and Dinner.

On Marches, Men cannot keep a Mess, or manage as they do in Quarters; and it would therefore be a necessary Question to ask, what kind of Breakfast, Dinner, and Supper can a fatigued Soldier obtain for two pence-halfpenny? Even allow six of them to join their Stock together? they must live most miserably, if they do not receive Advance Money from their Officers, which will keep them under Stoppages when they arrive at their Quarters, and greatly Distress them for a long Time after.

On a March, my Lord, when they come to a Town, Village or Hamlet, the Constable of the Parish, thro' a servile Disposition, Billets the Soldiers upon the Poorest of the Inhabitants, and frequently upon those, who are in extreme Want themselves. In the Cottages of these poor Creatures, an hungry fatigued Soldier meets with a bad Repast, a cold Straw Bed without covering, and a Stone for a Pillow. In such Places if a Soldier has not his own Provisions with him, he may famish. The servile Constable as

I observed before, is unwilling to disoblige the Squire, Parson, Gentleman, or able Farmer, by sending so disagreeable a Thing to their Houses as a Red Coat, not considering their Valour at *Culloden Mure*, &c.

If a Soldier happens by Chance to be Billeted on a Gentleman, &c. he is spurned at and treated with the utmost Indignity, but to get rid of him, he is thrown two pence or a penny, and desired to go to the next Ale-house. This ill Usage of the Constable, in Billeting the Men upon such poor Creatures, as they generally do, is highly worthy of Observation. If a Soldier is Quartered on an Inn-keeper or Ale-draper, all they afford him is a Straw Bed, Fire and Candle-light, and these with Indignity and Affronts, as he is not able to make the House the Better of him. For his intire daily Allowance would not afford him a Supper in a Publick House sufficient for any Man. If Six or more Soldiers are Billeted on Publick Houses, and if they venture to call for a Supper, they are charged six or eight pence a Piece for Eating, exclusive of Drink, which Charge, will very ill agree with two pence half-penny a Day.

Such, beyond all manner of Doubt, my Lord, are the Hardships a Foot Soldier suffers on a March throughout this Kingdom. And as these are insurmountable Difficulties, (without your Lordship's benign Interposition and

and Interest) it is hoped your Lordship will represent their distressed Case to the LORDS and COMMONS of *Ireland*, who have it in their Power to Relieve those poor Men, as their Humanity and Judgment will direct.

There is a certain Field Officer now in his Majesty's Service, my Lord, who took it in his Head when he was an Ensign, to live one Month on the Pay of a Soldier, another on the Pay of a Corporal, and the Third on the Pay of a Serjeant. The first Month he declared he had as much as ever he could do, with the greatest Oeconomy, to keep himself alive, tho' he Earned some Trifle in making Nets, which he learned when he was a Boy sporting in the Country. The second Month he was almost as bad, and the third he would now and then afford to drink a Pot of Ale with one of his Brother Serjeants, as he then Phrased them. This Gentleman has often declared that nothing surprised him more, than to see a Soldier Drunk, for his Part when a Soldier (as he used to say) he could not afford himself even a Pint of Ale, tho' he earned some Trifle exclusive of his Pay.

Common Observation may inform every one, that few People would work if they could live without it; therefore, when we see at this present Time, some of the Soldiers now quartered in the Barracks of *Dublin*, working at the Custom-house Quay, and

and others at Essex-Bridge up to their Knees in Water ; it is not to be imagined that if those Men could live on their Pay, that they would Endure such extraordinary Hardships. If it be objected that they have a Family, and that a Soldier's Pay is insufficient for their Snpport, I answer, that it is well known in the Army, that Soldiers who are married live better than those who are not, for the Reasons before recited.

To take a View, my Lord, of the State of the Subalterns of Foot, the Condition of those who have no independant Fortunes, will be found to be very Hard. Those Subalterns it is well known are bred like Gentlemen, and generally receive a liberal Education. These Qualifications with the Commission they bear, intitle them to the best Company, which they are justly Ambitious of keeping. When the Case of those Gentlemen, my Lord, is properly Stated, and considered, they will be found to be in as melancholy a Way as ever the Subalterns of Dragoons were.

In *London*, my Lord, a Subaltern can live infinitely cheaper and genteeler on his Pay than he can in *Ireland*. At an Ordinary in *London*, no Gentleman is taken Notice of ; he may drink more or less as he pleases and depart unnoticed when he thinks proper.

But

But in this Kingdom, there are so many impertinent Inspectors, who neglect their own Business, to make Remarks on others, that when a Subaltern Dines at a Tavern here, to avoid ill natured Censure, he is obliged to drink as long after Dinner as the rest of his Company; otherwise he is counted a Niggard, without ever considering how unequal a Subaltern is to a Man of Fortune.

To go the nearest Way to Work, suppose as it is sometimes the Case, That Officers have a Mess in some publick House contiguous to the Barracks, they pay Eighteen pence a Head for their Eating, and after Dinner they must drink a Pint of Wine or a Sneaker of Punch, otherwise the Host could not afford them a sufficient Ordinary at that Price. Thus an Ensign who has two Shillings and ten pence a Day Subsistance, let him manage in the cheapest Way he can, he can't Dine even at this Mess less than a *British* half Crown: And if he Dines at a Tavern, his Bill is seldom or ever less than a *British* Crown. At this Rate Subalterns of Foot who have not independent Fortunes, are equally distressed with a Foot Soldier.

A Gentleman may dine in *London* at an Ordinary of seven Dishes for a *British* Shilling, and have but a Pint of Beer if he pleases, nor will any Person take notice

of

of his Departure, or what he has or has not drank.

All this considered, my Lord, with the difference in the Price of Provisions now, to what it was at the last Calculation; the Infantry of this Kingdom hope that upon a Remonstrance of the Difficulties they labour under to His MAJESTY, or the Parliament, they would at least be put upon an equal Footing with those on the British Establishment, as all manner of Provisions are dearer in Ireland than in England.

As your Lordship was always remarkable for Lenity, Compassion, and a justly esteemed Patriot Spirit, the Foot Soldiers of this Kingdom unanimously pray your Lordship's favourable Interposition in their Behalf, and your Lordship's being instrumental in relieving the Distresses of so many thousand Men, will add to that honourable Reputation you, with so much distinguished Merit enjoy. And in the Name of the Infantry of this Kingdom in general, I take leave to subscribe myself, my Lord,

Your most humble

Most obedient

And devoted Servant

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PHILO-MILITUM.